

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 07219 211509Z

ACTION SCS-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /007 W
-----065867 211525Z /53

P 211322Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7308

UNCLAS ATHENS 7219

E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS CDES, GR
SUBJECT: FORMAT AND REVISED PROCEDURES FOR DIRECT RELAY NOTIFICATION
OF
DEATH TELEGRAMS

REF: STATE 209361 AND PREVIOUS

1. EMBASSY APPRECIATES DEPARTMENT'S QUICK RESPONSE TO OUR RESERVATION
S
CONCERNING SUBJECT FORMAT. UNFORTUNATELY RESERVATIONS PERSIST, JEREWI
TH
OUR ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS RAISED IN PARA 6 OF REFTEL:

A. IN THE ABSENCE OF AFAMILY-OWNED LOT, REMAINS MUST BE BURIED IN A
"THREE-YEAR USE" LOT AND DISINTERMENT AFTER THAT TIME IS MANDATORY.

B. PERMANENT LOTS MAY BE PURCHASED AT TIME OF DEATH AT A MINIMUM COST
OF \$1,000 IN THE SUBURBS OF ATHENS AND BETWEEN \$1,200 AND \$5,300 IN
THE ATHENS AREA. A SMALL ANNUAL FEE MUST BE PAID FOR MAINTENANCE OF
THE LOT, OR, AS WE ARE GIVEN TO UNDERSTAND, THE CEMETERY MAY MAKE
ARRANGEMENTS ON ITS OWN TO RESELL IT.

C. DISINTERRED REMAINS ARE PLACED IN A SMALL INDIVIDUAL TIN CONTAINER
WHICH IN TURN IS PLACED IN AN INDIVIDUAL WOODEN BOX. SUCH BOXES ARE
KEPT IN A MORTUARY CHAPEL FOR A SMALL ANNUAL FEE, APPROXIMATELY \$10.
IF THIS IS NOT PAID, THE REMAINS ARE TRANSFERRED TO A COMMON OSSUARY.

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D. THE APPROXIMATE COST FOR THE TRANSFEROF REMAINS IS \$35.00.

3. ALL REPORTS OF DEATH INVOLVING LOCAL BURIAL IN A TEMPORARY SITE
DONE AT THIS POST NOT THE DISINTERMENT REQUIREMENT.

2. WE ARE UNSURE THAT DEPARTMENT MEANS BY "DIFFICULTIES" RE DIDINTERM

ENT.

ONE CONSUL WAS RECENTLY CONFRONTED BY AN OUTRAGED AMCIT, WAIVING THE FOREARM OF HIS DECEASED FATHER, AND CLAIMING THAT, AT THE DISINTERMENT, THE MORTUARY OFFICIAL HAD ATTEMPTED TO SATEAL A PLATINUM PLAT INSERTED INTO THE BONE FOLLOWING A W.W.88 SCHRAPNEL WOUND. HE DEMANDED THE EMBASSY'S ASSISTANCE IN CLEARING THE BONE THROUGH CUSTOMS. WHILE, FOR OBVIOUS REASONS, THIS CASE REMAINS FRESHEST IN OUR MINDS, MANY BEREAVED RELATIVES HAVE EXPRESSED DISMAY OR WORSE UPON LEARNING OF THE DISINTERMENT REQUIREMENT.

3. IN PLACING EMPHASIS ON THE OPTION OF LOCAL BURIAL, EMBASSY WILL POINT OUT TO THE BEREABED FAMILY THE DISINTERMENT REQUIREMENT IF A PERMANENT SITE IS NOT PURCHASED.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 aug 1978
Decapton Date: 01 jan 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ATHENS07219
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780341-0384
Format: TEL
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780840/aaaabgrp.tel
Line Count: 76
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9c08dd5f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SCS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 209361
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1669973
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FORMAT AND REVISED PROCEDURES FOR DIRECT RELAY NOTIFICATION OF DEATH TELEGRAMS
TAGS: CDES, GR, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9c08dd5f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014